

# News Release



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## Newport Beach Company Wins Crystal Cove Restoration Contract

CRYSTAL COVE – California State Parks today announced that Metro Builders and Engineers Group Ltd. of Newport Beach, CA has been awarded a twelve-month, \$8 Million contract for continuation of the restoration efforts at the Crystal Cove State Park Historic District.

“This is an exciting milestone,” said Park Superintendent Ken Kramer, “this first-phase project includes restoration of twenty-two cottages, parking and roadway improvements, utility and infrastructure upgrades, a new public contact entrance station, and resource protection efforts.”

The Historic District is a cluster of seaside cottages built between 1920 and 1940 that stand as the last remaining example of early California beach colony architecture and have been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979. The restored cottages will support approved program components including affordable overnight accommodations, public education and interpretation, park operations, and visitor serving concessions, “with a focus on the goal of public access and preservation of the unique charm and character of this treasured place,” Kramer said.

“We believe that the continuing restoration efforts support a good balance in meeting the goals of preserving the resources of Crystal Cove and opening the historic district to full public use and enjoyment. We are striving for a shared vision with community members, and we are confident that we are achieving that,” said State Parks Orange Coast District Superintendent Mike Tope.

The historic cottages, which were originally part of the Irvine Ranch, were part of the 1979 public purchase of Crystal Cove State Park from the Irvine Company. At \$32 Million, it was, at the time, the most expensive acquisition of state parkland in California history. The 2,800 acre park includes more than three miles of coastal bluffs and unspoiled beaches, a

1,100 acre underwater park, 17 miles of backcountry trails open to hiking, biking, and equestrian use, and three hike-in campgrounds.

The park also includes the El Morro trailer park area, which is scheduled for conversion to full public use in 2005 following the expiration of an existing lease agreement with 294 mobile home tenants. Like El Morro, private tenants occupied the Historic District cottages until their lease expired in July of 2001. Since then state parks has implemented interim improvements including temporary stabilization of structures, erosion control, slope stabilization, site security, sewer and water quality, landscape, public access, and education and interpretive programs.

Highlights of the upcoming restoration project include the following:

- Ten cottages adapted for short-term public overnight accommodations
- Three cottages adapted to dormitory style overnight accommodations
- A park visitor center, exhibit and demonstration facility, public restrooms and a multi-use facility/cultural center
- ADA parking and access improvements, a beach café, stairway improvements and outdoor group use areas
- Restoration of the historical pedestrian bridge spanning Los Trancos creek.

Reservations for the overnight accommodations, which will cost from \$80 to \$150 per night for single cottages and \$20 to \$30 per bed for the dormitory style cottages, are not being taken yet but will be announced as the project nears completion.

The restoration efforts are part of the Preservation and Public Use Plan (PPUP), which was adopted following an extensive public planning process and approved last June by the California Coastal Commission. The plan may be viewed on the State Parks website: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov). (Go to: Find A Park / Crystal Cove State Park / Historic District Preservation and Public Use Planning / CCHD PPUP, October 2002).

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